



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE

1100 BANK STREET, SUITE 706, RICHMOND, VA • (800) 772-0670
Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



Contact: Kevin Barnes, Director

Number 15

Released: November 2, 2005

2005 Census of Aquaculture is Ready to Count

Richmond, Virginia, November 2, 2005 - The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) is gearing up to count aquaculture species produced throughout the United States. The census will also collect detailed data relating to water area, production and sales, point of first sales outlets, farm labor and aquaculture distributed for restoration or conservation purposes.

Census of aquaculture report forms will be mailed to producers on December 15. Recipients are asked to complete and return their report forms within two weeks of receipt, providing data for the 2005 calendar year.

"Only American aquaculture producers can supply the answers needed to produce a useful and accurate picture of our nation's aquaculture at the national and state levels," said Kevin Barnes, Director of USDA-NASS Virginia Field Office.

To help improve operations and aquaculture businesses, census data are used by:

- ◆ farm organizations to evaluate and propose aquaculture policies and programs
- ◆ businesses to develop marketing strategies and determine facility locations
- ◆ public and private analysts in making projections and evaluating results
- ◆ colleges and universities to develop new and improved methods to increase aquaculture production
- ◆ State departments of agriculture for aquaculture promotion and research activities
- ◆ Federal Government policymakers in drafting legislation to help resolve aquacultural issues

-over-

- ◆ State and local governments to plan rural development, aquaculture research, and extension programs

Information provided by aquaculture farmers is strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). No data will be disclosed on any individual operation. Statistical results will be summarized and made available in printed and electronic form. Title 7 also states that response to the 2005 Census of Aquaculture is mandatory. All those who receive a census report form are required to return the form even if they did not operate an aquaculture operation in 2005.

“Many of the questions will be similar to those asked in the previous aquaculture census. Some new questions have been added to capture new information such as farm employment data for aquaculture operations” stated Barnes.

For the purpose of the census of aquaculture, an aquaculture farm is any commercial or noncommercial place from which \$1,000 or more of aquacultural products were raised and sold, or raised for restoration, conservation, or recreational purposes during the census year.

The final report will be available on the NASS Web site at www.nass.usda.gov in the fall of 2006.

YOU MAKE IT KNOWN - AQUACULTURE COUNTS!

Find agricultural statistics for your county, state, and the nation at www.nass.usda.gov

###